Erosion in earnings due to Appreciation of Rupee

1194. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sectors like Information Technology, Textile, Leather and Handicrafts have been badly hit by the persistent rise in rupee *vis-a-vis* dollar as rupee has reportedly appreciated by more than 10 per cent in the last 12 months, resulting in erosion of earnings;

(b) whether Government proposes to give fiscal support specially for technology upgradation, capital investment to IT sector by Public Private Partnership; and

(c) what steps new Government has taken so far in funding of affected industries, so that, they are able to push export during 2009-10?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There has been no appreciation of Rupee *vis-a-vis* US $ during last few months and consequentially there has been no impact of Rupee Appreciation on the Indian Industries.

Impact of economic slowdown on trade pacts with other countries

1195. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the impact of the economic slowdown on the trade pacts with other countries, particularly USA, Europe and China;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect the indigenous industries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Government has not entered into any bilateral trade pacts with the USA, Europe or China. There are a number of Trade Agreements with individual countries (e.g. India-Singapore CECA, India-Sri Lanka FTA, India-Chile PTA, etc.) and with groups of countries (e.g. Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement, India-MERCOSUR PTA, etc.). No specific study to assess the impact of economic slowdown on these Trade Pacts has been done.

(c) Does not arise.

Global tender for Import of Coal

1196. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) Ltd. floated a global tender on May 19, 2009 for import of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the genesis of the coal import proposal, including targeted quality, quantity and GIF prices and special conditions, if any, prescribed for eligibility of potential bidders;